

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02065 160748Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
/033 W

-----161336Z 054003 /46

R 151800Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0561
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2065

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO, IT
SUBJECT: SORES' IMPRESSIONS OF BERLINGUER

REF: STATE 53840 (NOTAL)

1. AT LUNCH ALONE TODAY, MARCH 15, WITH MARIO SOARES, I
ASKED HIM FOR HIS PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF BERLINGUER.
RECALLING OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, SOARES
DEFENDED HIS MEETING AS A TACTIC TO KEEP CUNHAL ON THE
DEFENSIVE. I SAID USG FULLY UNDERSTOOD HIS MOTIVES ALTHOUGH
IT DID NOT AGREE WITH THEM.

2. SOARES SAID BERLINGUER IS THE ONLY COMMUNIST HE KNOWS
WHO ENTERS A MEETING WITH FIVE OR SIX ASSISTANTS AND ALL
SPEAK UP. THE TRADITIONAL MODUS OPERANDI IS FOR ONLY THE
LEADER TO SPEAK. HE INTERPRETS THIS AS INDICATING BERLINGUER
IS IN LESS CONTROL OF HIS PARTY THAN SOME OTHER CP CHIEFTAINS.

3. SOARES SAID HE ALSO HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT BERLINGUER
IS NOT AS SMART AS HE IS MADE OUT TO BE. HE FOUND
HIM SOMEWHAT "DENSE." BERLINGUER IS SLOW TO REACT AND
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DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND.

4. I DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE THE
SUBJECT FURTHER SINCE SOARES QUICKLY SWITCHED TO
SPANISH COMMUNISTS, WHO, IN HIS JUDGEMENT, COULD BE
MORE EFFECTIVE IN EMBARRASSING SOVIETS SINCE "THE PCE
HATES THE USSR."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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